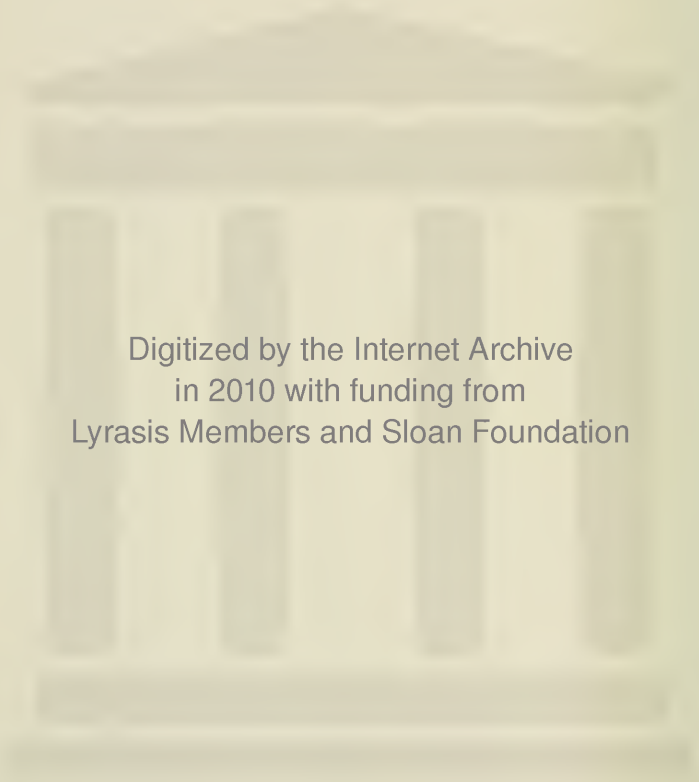

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MESSAGE

OF

Edwin Warfield

Governor of Maryland

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At Its Regular Session
JANUARY, 1906

KING BROS., STATE PRINTERS,
413 E. Lexington St. (City Hall Plaza),
Baltimore, Md.
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STATE OF MARYLAND.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, ANNAPOLIS, MD.

January 3d, 1906.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates:

The Constitution provides that the General Assembly of Maryland shall meet every two years, on the first Wednesday in January, and that it may continue in session so long as, in its judgment, the public interest may require, not exceeding, however, ninety days.

In pursuance of this Constitutional mandate you have assembled today, and I welcome you to Annapolis with the earnest hope that your deliberations may be harmonious and fraught with wise legislation for the promotion of the public welfare.

The people of Maryland have delegated to you great powers. You will, I am sure, exercise them in that spirit which places patriotism above partisanship.

One of the duties required of me as Governor is to inform you of the condition of the State and recommend for your consideration such measures as seem to me necessary and expedient. This I shall do briefly.

LEGISLATIVE EXPENSES.

Before taking up the condition of the administrative affairs of the State, I wish to direct your attention to abuses that have prevailed in the past in the matter of legislative expenses and proceedings.

Chapter 681 of the Acts of 1904 (page 1218) makes provision for eighteen officers and employes for the Senate

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and twenty-six for the House of Delegates, and appropriates $20,465 for their pay. This number of officers and employes has always been elected early in each Session, and, as they became necessary, additional ones were subsequently appointed as the respective Houses directed.

The House of Delegates, following the precedent established in 1896, has, at each Session since then, authorized the Speaker to appoint additional clerks, employes, etc. (See House Journal, 1904, page 32.)

The record of legislative expenses for the Session of 1904, shows that there were on the pay rolls of the two Houses 198 officers, employes and clerks, not including 45 laborers and 75 additional engrossing clerks appointed at the end of the Session.

The total pay of these employes amounted to $118,460.50, being $51,367.05 more than was paid to the 128 members of the Senate and House. The compensation and mileage paid in 1904 to members and employes, amounted to $185,552.55, which is a very much greater amount than was expended for similar purposes by any previous Legislature. This scandalous and reckless squandering of the people's money cannot be justified.

EXTRA PAY AND GRATUITIES.

Another legislative custom which is wrong and pernicious is the passing of orders, in the rush and heedlessness of the closing hours of the Session, giving extra pay to favorite officers and employes, and gratuities to persons not employed by either House. This is a species of graft which should not be tolerated.

The compensation provided by law for officers and employes is liberal and ample and I believe it is unlawful to increase the same by a mere order of either House, in the face of the Statute fixing definitely their pay.

ENROLLMENT OF BILLS.

The enrollment of all bills, after they have been passed, and before being presented to the Governor for his signature, offers another opportunity for extravagance.

If the provision of the Constitution which says that "No bill shall be read a third time until it shall have been *actually engrossed* for a third reading" is obeyed, then there is no necessity for re-writing or enrolling a bill before presenting it to the Governor.

When a bill is *actually engrossed before it is read a third time, it becomes when passed a true and perfect bill,* and is at once ready for the Great Seal of the State and for presentation to the Governor for his signature.

This custom of enrolling or re-copying of bills, after their final passage, subjects them to errors by incompetent clerks, or to interpolations and fraudulent changes in their text by designing persons.

You should abolish this old custom of enrolling bills after they have been passed, and adopt a new method of procedure in handling bills, which will expedite legislation and do away with the necessity of appointing additional engrossing clerks to enroll bills after the Legislature has adjourned.

Such a method will not only save a large cost to the State but it will enable the Governor to pass upon all bills and to sign or veto them while the Legislature is in Session.

DANGER IN HASTY LEGISLATION.

The postponement of final action on bills until the last days of the Session has resulted in much hasty and bad legislation.

During the Session of 1904 not one bill was passed in the month of January and only forty-nine in February; while in the last twelve working days of the Session 484 bills were passed. Thus, a great mass of important legislation was crowded into the closing hours of the Session,

when there was not time for that calm and deliberate consideration of measures which is the surest safeguard against hasty and improvident legislation.

I have ventured to make these suggestions in regard to legislative expenses and procedure in the hope that they may steer you into lines of legislative promptness and economy.

I am not niggardly, nor am I opposed to the appointment of all the officers and employes necessary to expedite your business and to enable you to perform your work as lawmakers without inconvenience to yourselves, and without taxing either your patience or your energy; but I do urge you not to create sinecures, not to put men on the pay-rolls in the middle or at the end of the Session and pay them for the whole ninety days, not to vote the people's money away as gifts to favorites, and not to appoint men who will not perform the work of the positions to which they are assigned.

I simply submit these suggestions, facts and figures. The remedy is with you.

LOBBYING.

Lobbying is an evil and corrupting influence that has justly aroused the antagonism of all good citizens. You should take prompt and drastic steps to suppress this evil, and to compel those engaged in the nefarious occupation to keep out of the legislative halls.

A vigorous enforcement of the rules of your respective bodies will cause them and their associates to disappear from the Capitol, and thus relieve you from their obnoxious presence, which so hampers and interferes with the orderly and safe conduct of your business.

You are the agents of your constituents, and it is your duty to make yourselves acquainted with their views and

wishes. This can be accomplished by direct intercourse with them.

They should have the fullest and freest opportunity for discussion before committees of public and private measures, and before either or both of the branches of the General Assembly when the measures in which they are interested are of such moment as to justify a hearing. This privilege should not only be accorded to individuals, but to corporations whose interests are affected, or claimed to be affected, by any proposed legislation, and such corporations should have the right to be heard through their regular officers or attorneys.

What the public is opposed to, and what has brought discredit upon legislative bodies in this State in the past, are political lobbyists, who combine to sell and control legislation for their personal benefit and who trade upon their influence with legislators.

The trusted runners of such legislation-brokers have, in the past, been billeted upon the taxpayers, in sinecure positions, as employes of the Legislature, which positions yielded not only a per diem of five dollars, but gave them that which was far more valuable, the privileges of the legislative halls and uninterrupted access to the bill-files and legislative records, thus enabling them to tamper with bills on their passage and in the engrossing rooms, before they reached the Governor for his signature.

THE CORRUPT USE OF MONEY IN ELECTIONS.

In my inaugural address two years ago, I recommended the passage of a stringent Corrupt Practices Act. The developments since then regarding the enormous corruption funds contributed by insurance companies and corporations for carrying elections, have so aroused public indignation that the demand has become universal for drastic legislation to effectually prohibit the contribution and use of money for improper election purposes.

The cure demanded is complete publicity of the financial transactions of the national and State committees of political parties, with the names of all contributors and the amount of their contributions, to whom paid, and for what purpose. In order to cut off the main source of supply of such funds, corporations should be prohibited from making contributions to political parties or to individuals to be used to influence elections.

Whatever measure you may mature should include primary as well as general elections.

This is a question that should not be viewed from a party stand-point. Every man who favors purity in politics and clean and decent elections should rally to the support of a bill that will stop bribe-giving, vote-selling, and corrupt methods in both primary and general elections.

THE ELECTION LAW.

There is a universal desire for amendments to the election law. In this I heartily concur. It should be so amended that the intent of the voter shall prevail in determining whether a vote shall be counted, unless there is affirmative and indisputable evidence that a mark has been placed upon the ballot for the purpose of identifying a bought vote.

It should also be provided that a mistake in marking too many candidates under one group, shall not invalidate the whole ticket, but that it apply only to the candidates in the group improperly marked. The ballot should be uniform in size and style of type, and freed from devices of any kind or character to enable any ignorant voter to locate any particular candidate or set of candidates. A voter should be given every opportunity to enable him to properly fold his ticket.

I do not favor a return to emblem voting. It is natural for those who seek to increase the power and influence of the ignorant and venal voter to advocate a return to the emblem, thus making it easy for such persons to cast

their votes. The sentiment of the times, however, is in favor of a ballot that will require some degree of intelligence upon the part of the voter in marking his ticket. The leading States which now have the emblem to guide the ignorant, or the square to enable the undiscriminating party man to vote for all the nominees of his party by simply making one cross-mark, are moving to do away with that form of ballot and to adopt the form used in this State.

Notably is this the case in New York and Pennsylvania. The laws of fourteen States of the Union, using official ballots, provide that all candidates shall be voted for by marking their names individually, or, as in two instances, by erasing the names of the opposing candidates.

I believe that the restoration of the emblem and the grouping of the candidates of each party under separate headings and emblems would be a step backward for Maryland, and accepted as an encouragement of the ignorant, thoughtless and partisan voter.

PRIMARY ELECTIONS.

Primary elections for the selection and nomination of party candidates should be honestly and fairly conducted, and the fullest and freest opportunity given to the rank and file of a party in the selection of their candidates.

The Convention system is unsatisfactory and unpopular. It is the medium through which party managers, the men who make a business of politics, control and manipulate party organizations, and often influence them in antagonism to the welfare of the public.

The experience in Baltimore city since the adoption of the Primary Election Law demonstrates that the citizen, when he knows that his vote will be fairly counted, will take part in the primary elections of the party with which he is affiliated.

The people are all powerful and can control primary and final elections when they determine to think for themselves politically—do their civic duty. This was fully shown by the recent elections throughout the country.

A Primary Election Law should be passed for the whole State, and it should provide that aspirants for State offices should have the right to submit their candidacy to a direct vote of the people.

The system of nominations by a direct vote has worked well in Virginia and Wisconsin, and in the city of Baltimore. Why not give it a trial in Maryland?

As primary elections are now conducted in the counties of the State, it is no crime either to sell or buy votes at such elections, nor for members of other political parties or residents of other counties or States to vote at such primaries; it is no crime for a voter to cast more than one ballot, or for the judges to receive more than one ballot from the same person, or for the judges to make false returns of the vote cast.

This condition should not be tolerated longer.

THE FINANCES OF THE STATE.

The annual report of the Comptroller of the State Treasury is one of the most comprehensive and instructive ever submitted by that Department. It should receive your careful consideration. His comments upon the public debt and the receipts and disbursements are fully supported by detailed statements, so clear and definite that you can readily see the exact condition of every fund and every source of revenue. You will find therefrom that the finances of the State are in a most satisfactory condition.

Your attention is especially called to the receipts each year from all sources of revenue other than direct taxation. The Comptroller estimates that they will be $1,611,878 during 1906.

I wish to impress upon you the fact that this is the only fund out of which the ordinary expenses of the State Government and the usual annual appropriations for the maintenance and aid of State and charitable institutions can be paid, so it is important for you to keep always in mind the fact that if your appropriations, plus the fixed annual expenses, exceed this amount, you must increase the State tax rate. This the taxpayers will not, and should not, tolerate, as the rate is now $23\frac{1}{2}$ cents on the $100,—a very heavy burden for the property owner to bear.

The money brought into the State Treasury from this direct taxation is for public school purposes and to pay the interest on the State debt and to provide a sinking fund for its final liquidation. Hence, it constitutes a sacred trust fund which cannot be diverted or used in payment of expenses of the State Government or to meet any appropriations that you may make.

THE DEBT AND SINKING FUNDS.

The total bonded debt of the State, issued and outstanding September 30, 1905, amounted to $8,526,926.13. As an offset to this, the Treasury holds in the Sinking Fund $3,301,587, which deducted from said debt leaves a net balance of $5,225,339 to be raised by direct taxation in pursuance of the mandate of the Constitution.

The net debt of the State is only $471,164.90 greater than at the close of the fiscal year, September 30, 1903, notwithstanding the issue of the new "Public Buildings Loan" of $1,425,000 authorized by the last Legislature. .

The levy of $6\frac{3}{4}$ cents per annum, with the income from the investments in the Sinking Fund, yields about $500,000 per annum, which is enough to pay the interest and provide a sinking fund for the liquidation of the debt as it matures. It is estimated that a sufficient sinking fund to pay the whole debt will be accumulated within eight years.

The State owns some valuable assets that are not in the Sinking Fund, but the proceeds of which, if sold, must be applied only to the liquidation of the State debt. Their par value is $2,137,470.

I favor selling these securities, especially the $1,500,000 mortgage of the Northern Central Railway Company and the 5500 shares of the stock of the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, provided an adequate price can be realized for the same.

They should sell for at least $4,000,000, which would leave outstanding an indebtedness of about $1,225,000, which could in two years be liquidated by the present taxation, and thus leave the State clear of debt and relieve the taxpayers of the present annual levy of $6\frac{3}{4}$ cents, provided you do not create another loan.

The Comptroller calls special attention to the fact that the balance on hand September 30, 1905, of $1,516,881.78 is not available for the appropriations that you will make, because there is included in that amount, as you will see from the tables, large sums due the Public School Fund and the Public Buildings Fund. When these amounts and the current administrative expenses (which are very large at this period of the year), are deducted from this balance, there will be left a very small sum which, the Comptroller says, will be barely sufficient to meet the expenses of the Legislature and provide for the fixed charges upon the State.

I wish to direct your attention specially to that portion of the Comptroller's report under the heads of "Public Schools" and "Free School Books." He shows that the unprecedented sum of $1,195.565.22 was received and distributed to Baltimore City and the several counties for support of the public schools during the last fiscal year, and this did not include the amount of $127,832.33 which was raised by a tax of $1\frac{3}{4}$ cents for free school books.

As the friends of the new school law estimated that the increased tax-rate would produce about $1,000,000 per annum, and that this would be enough to carry into effect the provisions of that law, it is recommended by the Comptroller that the amount required for the purchase of free school books be deducted from the amount raised by the levy of 15 cents for public schools, before said amount is distributed, and that the tax of $1\frac{3}{4}$ cents for said free school books be not levied.

I agree with the Comptroller, and suggest further that the free school book appropriation be reduced to $100,000, as I am informed by the school authorities that this will be ample to provide all the books necessary, because in the initiative years a full quantity of books was purchased, and there is now an overlapping supply on hand, which meets the needs of the pupils.

THE APPROPRIATION FOR ROADS.

The Comptroller also calls attention to the fact that the general revenues of the Treasury can not stand the annual appropriation of $200,000 for road purposes. This matter deserves your serious consideration, if you wish to continue the building of good roads.

STATE TREASURER.

The Constitution makes it the duty of the Governor to semi-annually examine, under oath, the Treasurer and Comptroller of the State on all matters pertaining to their respective offices, and to inspect and review their bank and other account books.

I have performed this duty, and found the accounts in the Comptroller's and Treasurer's offices neatly and well kept and the work handled in a business and methodical way.

The policy of the Treasurer in depositing the State's funds in various banks in the city of Baltimore and through-

out the State meets with my hearty approval. He had on deposit, at the date of my last examination, December 29th, $1,126,010.12, divided among thirty banks, from each of which a good and sufficient bond has been received and duly approved by me. A complete record of these bonds is kept in the Treasurer's office, and the custody of the same is properly safeguarded.

Such a distribution of the funds of the State is equitable, fair and proper, and makes the payment of the drafts of the Treasurer convenient in every section of the State.

The Treasurer has required the banks to pay interest upon these deposits, which has resulted in a handsome income to the State. The amount of interest received during the last fiscal year was $19,538.93.

No State in the Union has a better Treasury system than has Maryland. The income and outgo of the public moneys is well and safely guarded. No money can be received or paid out by the Treasurer except on a warrant signed by the Comptroller. The books of these two divisions of the Treasury Department of the State are balanced daily, and before the close of each day's work the chief clerks of the two offices compare their statements and reconcile them.

STATE TAX COMMISSIONER.

The most gratifying result set forth in the Tax Commissioner's report is the large increase in the amount received by the State from the tax on Gross Receipts of Corporations.

This increase, during the past two years, amounts to $138,403.48, and is due to the energetic and intelligent work of this department, which is requiring all corporations to make their reports in such form and detail as to show the actual Gross Receipts.

THE OYSTER INDUSTRY.

The Oyster Industry demands your immediate considera-

Twenty years ago Maryland led the world in the

oyster trade. Her packing houses were running full. Ten thousand boats, large and small, were busily employed in catching oysters and bringing them to market. There was a balance of at least a quarter of a million dollars in the State Treasury to the credit of the Oyster Fund.

The present situation is very different. The pack this year is but a small fraction of what it was in those days. Many great canning houses have been driven out of business through the ever-diminishing supply of this product of the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Others have left the State and gone to Virginia, North Carolina, Mississippi and Louisiana, where the laws are more favorable to the growth of the oyster trade than under our present system.

The packers are not the only sufferers. Hundreds of oyster boats are lying idle for lack of freight, and oystermen throughout the tidewater counties complain of the prevailing famine.

The Oyster Fund is entirely exhausted. In the year 1900, $35,000 was appropriated from the general treasury of the State for the benefit of this Fund, and the annual receipts from all sources barely meet the expenses of the State Fishery Force, under the economical administration of Commander Howard.

The decadence of our chief industry has been accompanied by great pecuniary losses, as well as deprivations and hardships to individuals, especially to the boatmen, who are the least able to bear them.

It is, therefore, your duty to discover, if possible, the cause of this evil, and to apply such remedies as may be within the province and the power of the Legislature.

The cause, in my opinion, of the existing oyster famine in Maryland lies in the fact that, while other States and countries, with a supply of oysters upon their natural beds far less in quantity and inferior in quality to that which has been bestowed upon us, have introduced the cultivation of

oysters, we have, in the face of all experience, relied solely upon our natural supply, until it is now almost wholly exhausted. This exhaustion is not primarily due to over-dredging or tonging, or even to the failure to observe the provisions of the culling law.

The real cause is the excess of the demand over the supply, which latter we have failed to augment by enlightened culture laws.

The barren portions of the bottoms of the waters of the State should be made productive. The State should profit thereby through the annual rentals from such bottoms, leaving the natural beds to the oystermen as at present.

You should enter upon the discussion of this question early in the Session, and formulate after mature consideration a plan that will bring the results which all of the people of the State so much desire, having a care to guard against and prohibit monopolies in clear and precise terms.

The proposition to apply the revenues arising from the rentals of oyster lands, to building and repairing the highways of the State, has met with universal approval, and I respectfully recommend that you will bear this fact in mind in providing for the application of the surplus revenues arising therefrom.

Judging from the views of many of you, given to the public through the columns of the press of our State, I feel that you are alive to the importance of this great question and will act upon it promptly, intelligently, and vigorously.

THE INCORPORATION LAWS OF THE STATE.

The Commission appointed by my predecessor, under Chapter 446 of the Acts of 1902, to recommend revisions of the Corporation laws of this State made its report to the General Assembly of 1904, near the end of the season—too late for any action to be taken thereon.

I requested the Commission to continue its work and submit its final report at this Session. Its members have finally completed their labors, giving to the work much time and consideration. Their faithful services deserve an expression of your approval.

This report, and the recommendations made therein, should receive your most careful consideration. It will be seen that they are conservative, and made with a view to simplifying the law, and making it so practical that no Maryland enterprise need seek a charter from any other State.

Among the changes proposed by the Commission, the following are the most noteworthy:

First. Corporations are permitted to be formed under the general law for any lawful purpose, thereby doing away, so far as the Constitution permits, with any resort to the Legislature for special privileges. Such companies as may require the use of the public streets and highways are left to local regulation, subject to special provisions for the city of Baltimore.

Second. The method of taxing ordinary business corporations is changed. An "ordinary business corporation" is defined to be one which enjoys no special privileges or franchises, whose business is not affected with a public interest, or which does not, under the present law, pay a State tax upon its gross earnings or receipts. This definition is practically that of an incorporated partnership. Under the proposed law, an ordinary business corporation, after the year 1906, will no longer be taxed on its shares, but will be assessed upon its property, real and personal, just as an individual owner would be.

Third. The existing method of condemnation by corporations having the right of eminent domain is radically changed. The sheriff's jury is abolished, and hereafter such condemnations will be judicial proceedings. It is claimed by the Commission that the existing method has no longer

any excuse for being, and has no advocates outside of those who profit by its abuse.

The Commission makes other and definite recommendations. The Legislature should take up the consideration of the bill proposed by it early in the Session, so that it may be fully and intelligently discussed.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

During the past two years steady progress has been made in Public Education in Maryland. The Law passed in 1904 has many advantages over the old, yet it is not perfect, and further changes will be necessary.

Closer harmony has prevailed between the school management of Baltimore City and that of the State. This can be increased in the future by closer working methods, the use of similar or the same text-books, the same standards for examinations and diplomas.

The State Board of Education has established its headquarters in Annapolis, and thus divorced its management entirely from the State Normal School. This change has worked in a very satisfactory manner.

The General Assembly of 1900 created the office of State Superintendent of Public Education and prescribed the duties belonging thereto. Two years later the State Superintendent was made a member of the State Board of Education and Inspector of Manual Training and Industrial Schools, and in 1904 the new school law made him Secretary of the State Board of Education and Inspector of High Schools.

These several additional requirements, and the natural progress of our public schools, together with the growing need of closer school supervision, make it impossible for one person to do all this work in a thorough and efficient manner.

To meet this need temporarily the Superintendent and Board decided to appoint the same person to be Clerk to the Superintendent and to be Treasurer of the Board (a position formerly held by the Principal of the State Normal School of Baltimore); and having thus offered some inducement for a man professionally qualified for the work, the Board passed a by-law requiring this person so appointed to "act as Assistant Superintendent" in such matters as might be committed to him.

I recommend that the General Assembly create the office of Assistant Superintendent of Education and Treasurer of the State Board, his salary to be paid out of the appropriation for public schools. By this means the efficiency of the service can be greatly improved without any additional cost to the State.

The State Board of Education, after several years study of methods adopted by other States where conditions closely resemble those in Maryland, have prepared a bill establishing a plan for compulsory primary education, and will recommend to you the passage of the same. As President of the Board I have participated in the consideration of this proposed law, and commend it to your favorable consideration.

Thirty-two States of the Union have passed similar measures, and the city of Baltimore has its Truant Law, which has been of marked advantage. I feel that now is the time for Maryland, one of the Original Thirteen, to take her place with the other States which favor compulsory laws.

COLLEGES RECEIVING STATE AID.

The policy of the State in recent years has been to extend aid to the Maryland Agricultural College and to St. John's College, for the purpose of broadening their usefulness and making their combined work take the place of a State Univer-

sity for Maryland. Thus has the State been able to provide for the higher education of her ambitious youths.

Considerable progress and development has been manifested in both of these Colleges since this policy has been adopted. The number of students attending each has been greatly increased, until both are now crowded to their full capacity.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE.

St. John's College has been designated by the United States Government as one of the six leading colleges where students have shown great proficiency in military training, and at the present time there are 22 recent graduates in the service of the government, sixteen of whom have been appointed by the President of the United States as officers of the regular army, the other six holding commissions in other branches of the service.

Thus it will be seen that not only does this College afford every opportunity to the young men of Maryland to obtain advanced education in the sciences and liberal arts, but that it is training a body of young men who can be relied upon for the defense of the country.

Scholarships in this institution are awarded to graduates of the high schools of the State, thus supplementing our system of State education.

THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The Maryland Agricultural College was the pioneer in the Western hemisphere in urging the importance of scientific agriculture. No State aid was sought in commencing this work. The public spirit of Maryland's planters provided the means to accomplish the establishment of an agricultural college.

This initative has been instrumental in promoting the establishment in each State and Territory of the Union of agricultural colleges and experiment stations.

The State of Maryland, in accepting the United States Government grant, becomes a party to a contract with the National Government which requires her to make suitable provision for the development of her Agricultural College and Station on the lines laid down by the United States Government.

During the past fifteen years, a large percentage of the students who have spent one or more years at the Agricultural College have gone out to the farms of the State, and these young men are rapidly making their impress upon the communities in which they live.

The College, through its agricultural departments, is doing a work of great importance to the farmers of Maryland. It has taught them how to control insect pests and plant diseases, as well as instructing them in progressive horticulture. The "Farmers' Institute" is the medium through which the facts and knowledge garnered at the College and Experiment Station are distributed to the people of the State. Face to face the farmers are told of results and given information which cannot be conveyed in any way so effectively as by word of mouth.

The annual average of students today, compared with 14 years ago, is 165 as against 50 then, and the value of the College property has been increased at least $100,000.

Maryland offers rare opportunities of every type of soil and climate for growing any agricultural product of the temperate zone, and the Maryland Agricultural College and Experiment Station are doing their share of the work of promotion by pointing out the productiveness of the soil of our State. The people are beginning to realize the splendid work that is being accomplished by this institution, which is worthy of the pride that Marylanders are taking in its progress and development.

which can be put in the same category with these two colleges as aids in the higher education of the youth of the State, are the Western Maryland College and Washington College.

MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURES.

In view of the results accomplished through the Maryland Exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, it has occurred to me that it would be well for the State of Maryland to establish in Baltimore City, its great center of population, a Museum of Agriculture and Manufactures, where could be displayed the products of the State and the output of our manufacturing establishments, thus advertising Maryland's resources.

An organized effort should be made to keep before the public the great possibilities of our State, its versatility, its productiveness, its nearness to great bodies of consumers, and the value of its lands compared with the lands of the vast agricultural sections of the West.

This project could be united with the movement suggested by the Merchants and Travelers Association of Baltimore to hold an exhibit of Baltimore's manufactures and resources, which would do much to show the growth of the New Baltimore.

This Museum could be established in a building to be owned by the State which would be large enough to provide offices and quarters for all the State Boards and officials whose duties require them to be located in that city, thus providing a building in which all of these officials could be centralized, thereby saving to the State the large amount paid annually for rent.

The Exhibition Hall could be used by the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies and by the Manufacturers' Associations of Baltimore City for their public meetings and also for any exhibitions they might desire to hold. Thus would

the products of the State be made accessible for inspection to persons seeking homes in Maryland.

Nineteen of the most progressive States of the union have established such agricultural Museums, among which are New York, California, Georgia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana. The Superintendents of these Museums report that they have been a great force in directing attention to the desirability of their respective States as communities in which to settle.

I make this suggestion, believing that such a project is worthy of your consideration and would result in much benefit and profit to the State, especially to the City of Baltimore, which is entitled to great consideration at your hands. Baltimore is now contributing more taxes to the support of the State government, its schools and public works, than ever before in her history, notwithstanding the great conflagration which destroyed so much of her valuable property.

STATE HOUSE ANNEX BUILDING.

The Legislature of 1902 created a Commission charged with the duty of "constructing and erecting an addition to the present State House, in which shall be located the State Senate Chamber and the House of Delegates," and appropriated $250,000 with which to begin the work. At the Session of 1904 a further appropriation of $600,000 was made for the purpose of completing the work and for repairs to the old State House.

The Commission has completed its work, and will submit to this General Assembly a report showing in detail how the money has been expended.

It gives me pleasure to inform you that the Annex has been constructed within the appropriations made for that purpose, and at a very moderate cost when compared with the cost of similar Capitols erected in other States. The building is admirably suited to the purposes for which it

is to be used. It is a substantial splendid structure, with ample room to accommodate the Legislature and the various committees for many years to come.

Not only were these appropriations sufficient to erect the new building, but they also provided funds to enable the Commission to restore the old Senate Chamber to the form and appearance it bore at the time of that historic event, the resignation by General Washington of his commission as Commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, and, further, to restore the Executive Chamber to its former condition and to improve and fit up a private office for the Governor, as well as a document and working room.

The work of restoring the old Senate Chamber was done with the aid of an Advisory Committee of gentlemen connected with historic and patriotic societies, who were named for membership on the Committee because of their intimate acquaintance with the history of the State and the traditions of the old Chamber.

This Committee was appointed by me under authority of a resolution adopted by the State Annex Building Commission, and has performed its work in a most satisfactory manner.

In my opinion, the restoration of all the features of this beautiful old room is accurate. An interesting report of the work of the Advisory Committee is submitted herewith, which will give the reasons for every detail of the restoration.

Thus has been accomplished a work that has been devoutly desired by the people of this State ever since the appearance and furnishings of the old Chamber were destroyed and the room modernized in 1878.

This room, hallowed by so many sacred memories and historic associations will, I am sure, become the Mecca of every patriotic person in the State of Maryland, and will, each year, become more priceless in historic association. It

will, in connection with the two adjoining rooms, be kept as a place in which will be assembled mementoes associated with the War of the Revolution and the earlier days of our State.

Through the work of the State Annex Building Commission, and under the guidance and direction of Messrs. Baldwin & Pennington, the architects, Maryland has now one of the finest State Capitols in the Union.

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

A well regulated militia is the proper and natural defense of a free government. It is the main reliance of our State and Nation in the hour of need.

The National Guard of Maryland is composed of a splendid body of young men, who have repeatedly demonstrated that they realize the stern duties of the soldier and cheerfully perform them, and that they can be relied upon, in any emergency, to maintain order and protect property.

Notably was this the case during and just after the disastrous fire in Baltimore, two years ago, when the leading citizens feared pillage, outbreaks and disorder.

The arduous self-denying work of the officers and men of our militia, whenever they have been called into active service, entitles them to the commendation and support of the people. They have always performed their duty fearlessly and without discrimination, and often in the face of misunderstanding and abuse. They are entitled to your approval and I ask your cordial support of the Adjutant-General in his efforts to put the organized militia on a still higher plane of efficiency and discipline. The aim and ambition of the military authorities of the State is to bring our State soldiery up to the standard set by the regular army.

There has been manifested in the ranks of industry some opposition to a militia force, upon the theory that it is nothing but an instrument of capital,—a power for the intimida-

tion of labor. This conception has no foundation in fact, nor can it be reconciled with sober judgment by any method of reasoning. The National Guard is a public safeguard, and only those who incline to physical resistance to law need have any fear of it.

The Adjutant-General's office has, during the past two years, been placed on a strictly business basis. The work of the office has been systematized and proper book-keeping methods inaugurated.

HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE STATE.

The report of the State Board of Health shows that the health of the State has been good. No unusual epidemics have occurred during the past two years.

During 1905, typhoid was unusually prevalent. The result has been to arouse the people to the necessity of more careful supervision of the water and milk supplies.

The 41 local health boards are in the main well organized and well manned, and, generally, are co-operating with the State Board.

The laboratory for bacteriological examinations has grown in usefulness and the work of the entire department is rapidly increasing.

TUBERCULOSIS.

It is now established that tuberculosis is the most widespread and fatal of infectious diseases. It is a disease which carries away yearly thousands of individuals in the prime of life and at their period of greatest wage-earning capacity. The health authorities estimate that there are at least 10,000 cases of tuberculosis in Maryland, over 2,500 deaths occurring every year. It is a preventable, and in many instances a curable disease, and is spread, in great part, by careless and uncleanly habits of the infected individual.

With the exception of insanity, tuberculosis ranks first among all diseases in the proportion of its subjects who finally become dependent for assistance or support on the State or community in which they live.

A general movement directed towards controlling and preventing this terrible scourge has been initiated throughout the civilized world. To this movement Maryland should contribute her share. Already excellent work in the education of the public is being done by the Maryland Association for the Prevention and Relief of Tuberculosis. In the city of Baltimore two dispensaries have been established to treat patients at their homes, while a system of district nursing has been organized through these dispensaries and through the Instructive Visiting Nurses' Association.

The State of Maryland has enacted laws providing against the spread of the disease. The State Board of Health reports that the workings of these laws have been very encouraging, and that helpful relations have been established with a greater number of consumptives and at less cost than in any other State of the Union.

TUBERCULOSIS COMMISSION.

The Commission authorized to consider and report on proper measures for the treatment of tuberculosis advises that it will be desirable eventually for the State to encourage and support a general scheme for the care of tuberculosis in Maryland on some such plan as the following:

(1) *Dispensaries.* The establishment of proper dispensaries in the larger towns of the State for the treatment of patients who are able to move about.

(2) *District Nurses.* The development of a proper system of district nursing for tuberculosis, especially in connection with established dispensaries.

(3) *Hospitals for the treatment of more advanced cases of tuberculosis.* Hospitals for consumptives should be eventually

established in the cities and larger towns or in their immediate neighborhood. As a beginning the Commission recommends that every general hospital receiving financial support from the State shall be required to devote a ward or building to the treatment of tuberculosis, the number of beds to be proportionate to the subsidy given by the State.

(4) *Hospitals for incipient tuberculosis.* There should be one or more institutions in the State for the treatment of incipient tuberculosis. Such institutions should be situated in high and dry rural districts.

Tuberculosis presents a grave and serious problem, one that deserves your most careful consideration and positive action to carry out the recommendations of the Commission.

LIVE STOCK SANITARY BOARD.

The value of the live stock in the State of Maryland is estimated to be over $22,000,000, and, therefore, the importance of the work of this Board, which has charge of the inspection and supervision of the conditions of this immense source of wealth to the State, should not be under-estimated.

The health of the people depends largely upon the watchfulness and thoroughness with which the duties of this Board are performed. The disease most dreaded is tuberculosis, because its effects are most dangerous, since beef and milk enter so largely into the diet of every family.

During the past 18 months, dairy inspection has been extended over the entire State, 2,223 stock pens and 39,233 cattle having been examined.

The Board reports that there has been no virulent outbreak of any contagious disease during the past two years.

BUREAU OF STATISTICS AND INFORMATION.

The State Bureau of Statistics and Information presents in its report very interesting data. You will find therein tables giving the cost of living, chronology of labor organi-

zations, the results of a partial investigation into the employment of child-labor, the work of the employment agency conducted by the Bureau, a brief resume of the negro census, a review of the State showing its natural resources, transportation facilities, manufacturing industries and other general information of value to business men and the people generally.

The inspection of clothing shops, conducted by the Bureau, has been very rigid, and the manufacture of clothing in these shops and dwellings has been completely revolutionized in the city of Baltimore. Clothing is manufactured in Baltimore today under better sanitary conditions than in any other city of the United States. This work has been greatly aided by the hearty co-operation of the large manufacturers.

The Employment Agency has made progress, and it is gratifying to know that the demand for labor throughout the State has been such as to furnish work to all persons seeking it.

The Department has been unable to supply the demand for farm labor during the year. More vigorous steps should be taken to encourage laborers to go into the country, where they are greatly needed, and where they can secure healthful and remunerative employment.

Legislation authorizing the Bureau to take a census of the manufactures of the State should be enacted. This Act should contain a provision for the inspection and report of all factories in the State of Maryland, just as in the case of the clothing shops.

CHILD LABOR.

Those who have kept in touch with the progress of charitable work have noticed a great stirring of the public conscience throughout the country in regard to the evils connected with "child labor."

In Maryland we have placed upon the statute books laws seeking to correct these evils, but it is claimed that the scope of these laws should be extended, and some more adequate provision made for their enforcement.

No subject that can be brought before you can be more important to the welfare of our State than the question how to secure to each Maryland child a fair opportunity to grow up to be a healthy, well developed and intelligent man or woman.

BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION.

The work of this Bureau has shown gratifying increase in usefulness and results. During the past eighteen months 6,074 desirable immigrants have settled in Maryland, brought here through its efforts, by advertising and canvassing. Of this number 4,918 are from Europe and 1,156 from various sections of the United States and Canada.

The State should encourage the immigration of farm laborers, and I recommend that you give this matter consideration and increase the usefulness of this Bureau by enlarging its powers.

BOARD OF STATE AID AND CHARITIES.

One of the most important duties that will confront you will be the making of the appropriations for the maintenance of the State Asylums and Reformatories, and for aid to Colleges, Charitable Organizations, Private Asylums and Hospitals. These appropriations amount annually to over $750,000, not including the extra appropriations for new buildings and repairs.

The General Assembly of 1900, recognizing that it was impossible for the members of the Legislature to acquire, during the brief period of the legislative session, accurate knowledge of the needs of these eleemosynary institutions, authorized the appointment of a Board of State Aid and Charities.

The members of this Board serve without compensation. The present Board has given much time to the duties devolving upon it. It has considered many applications for appropriations, and has carefully investigated the needs, conditions and workings of each institution.

You will find the data given and the suggestions made in their report, which will be laid before you early in the session, to be of great value, when you come to consider and act upon these appropriations. Their conclusions and recommendations should have weight because they are the result of the calm, unbiased judgment of disinterested, public-spirited citizens.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

The reports of the two State Hospitals for the Insane, Springfield and Spring Grove, will be found to contain much interesting data. They show that there is no alarming increase of insanity in Maryland.

Both of these institutions are well managed. The disbursements for maintenance of both are kept within the appropriations and receipts for care of patients.

These two institutions have, at this time, 1,224 inmates—560 at Spring Grove and 664 at Springfield.

THE MARYLAND PENITENTIARY.

It should be a source of satisfaction to the taxpayers of Maryland that the convicts in the Penitentiary are self-supporting, and that the fruits of their labor are furnishing ample means for the maintenance of the institution, and surplus enough to pay the annual interest upon the debt created by the State for the construction of larger and more substantial buildings for their accommodation.

The management of this institution has been a business one, and has made it, in the opinion of the leading penologists of the world, a model prison. The net earnings for

the year just ended amount to $36,492.07, being $8,921.38 greater than in the previous year.

The total net earnings paid into the State Treasury during the sixteen years of the able administration of Warden Weyler are $323,766.99.

The annual report of the Directors should receive your special attention, and I commend their recommendations to your favorable consideration.

HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

The erection of a new wing to the House of Correction, and the installing of a new electrical and heating plant have been completed. The cost is within the appropriations.

The new prison wing is of substantial construction and adapted to modern purposes, and contains 328 cells. There are now confined in this institution 398 prisoners, who are contributing to their own support through wages earned from contractors to whom they have been hired.

Economies to bring the disbursements within the appropriations and receipts from labor of prisoners have been inaugurated, and the management is determined that the cost of maintenance shall not exceed the income.

PARDONS.

The Constitution lodges with the Governor the grave power to grant reprieves and pardons, except in specially enumerated cases, and requires, before this power is exercised in any case, that due notice thereof shall be published in one or more newspapers, fixing a day when final decision will be given, and that he shall report, in every case in which he exercises this power, to either branch of the Legislature, when so required, the petitions, recommendations and reasons which influence his decision.

In the exercise of this serious and responsible duty, I have adopted the practice of having public hearings, and

have let it be known that prisoners need not employ counsel, but that their petitions could be sent by mail or presented by relatives or friends, who would be patiently heard and the cases promptly and carefully considered. Thus the greatest publicity is given to my action in all pardon cases.

During the two years of my administration, I have pardoned from the penitentiary 47 and released from jail 51, and from the House of Correction 36.

In pursuance of a plan to encourage ex-convicts to reform, I have restored to citizenship, after expiration of term, two.

I have signed ten death warrants and commuted five death sentences to life imprisonment.

The Governor should be relieved from the personal hearing of pardon cases. The hearing and investigating of them could be very wisely lodged with a Commission or a law clerk, who could report the findings and make recommendations for the final action of the Governor.

Much of my time is taken up by cases, generally trivial in their character, of persons who have been sent to jail by Police Magistrates in Baltimore City in default of payment of fines for assaults or violation of city ordinances.

As no prisoner can be released when committed to jail in such cases, except through Executive clemency, you can well understand the worry to which the Governor is subjected by appeals for remission of these fines and for releases.

I have been greatly aided in arriving at just conclusions in these cases by a plan I have adopted of referring all applications for releases from jail to three Police Magistrates, who investigate and re-hear the case and make recommendations.

I ask that you relieve the Governor from the hearing of all such cases by amending Section 3 of Article 38 of the Code of Public General Laws, by giving the Court or magistrate the power to designate the time of imprisonment, basing the same on the amount of fine imposed, instead of the minimum

of thirty days for a fine of fifty dollars or under. Now, a man whose offense merits a fine of only $1.00 has to serve as long as the one who is fined $50.00.

JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION.

The last Legislature recognized the importance of the Jamestown Exposition on the shores of Hampton Roads, Virginia, which will begin on May 13, 1907, by passing a joint resolution requesting the Governor to appoint a Commission of thirteen members to represent the State and to make suggestions concerning a suitable and proper representation by Maryland.

Acting under this authority, I have appointed a Commission consisting of thirteen representative men of the State.

The Commission report that they have made a thorough inspection of the grounds and of the working plans; that they believe the Exposition to be an assured success; and that it will afford a great opportunity for the exhibition of Maryland's patriotism, trade and industry.

Maryland is closer to Virginia in historical association and trade relationship than any other State.

As the gateway of the South, we have large interests at stake. This Exposition will not only celebrate the three hundredth anniversary of the first permanent settlement of English-speaking people on the American continent, but will bring together the people of the South as has no other event in our history and bind them, if possible, closer together.

The officials in charge of this Exposition have tendered to our State a position of honor upon the grounds second only to that of Virginia.

It is, therefore, eminently fitting and proper that Maryland should have an adequate building and an exhibit of its historical, educational and industrial achievements and resources, that will be creditable to us all. The Government of the United States has made a substantial appropriation,

and the President has deemed it of such importance as to merit special reference in his Message to Congress. New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey have decided to participate, New York having appropriated $150,000 for a building and exhibit, and Pennsylvania $100,000. Of all expositions ever held in this country, it will be of the largest direct and practical importance to Maryland.

I, therefore, heartily recommend a liberal appropriation for Maryland's representation at the Jamestown Exposition.

LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION COMMISSION.

The Commissioners appointed by my predecessor to represent the State of Maryland at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition will submit to the Legislature a full and detailed report, accounting for the appropriation made to defray the cost of Maryland's exhibit. The expenditures were kept within the appropriation and a substantial balance will be returned to the Treasury of Maryland. The Commissioners devoted their energies and the appropriation to the construction of a State building and the exploitation of Maryland's natural resources. They collected and installed a very creditable agricultural exhibit which was displayed in the Agricultural Building. Special facilities were afforded for distributing literature advertising the advantages of the State and calling particular attention to our abundant resources.

This advertising medium was availed of by the State Bureau of Immigration, the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association of Baltimore and real estate firms, so that the manufactures, mineral resources, agricultural products, climate, and everything that would attract attention to the State were placed before the public and illustrated in a telling way.

The effect of this work was fully appreciated by the official Board of Awards, which bestowed in recognition of the Maryland Agricultural Exhibit two Grand Prizes, eighteen

Gold Medals, twenty-eight silver medals and forty-five Bronze Medals.

The Geological Exhibit of the State was one of the best to be seen at the Exposition. It showed our natural minerals, together with the various manufactured products thereof.

The Maryland Building, which was a model of good taste and comfort, had a most excellent location. Many interesting historical records loaned by the State and by citizens, were exhibited therein.

I visited the Exposition and was present on "Maryland Day," September 12, 1904, accompanied by my military staff and a number of representative people of the State, who did much to make the occasion one of great public interest. Our party remained in St. Louis one week, during which time we received marked attention from the officials of the Exposition, the Governor of the State, the Mayor and citizens of St. Louis and the visiting Governors of other States.

THE STATE LIBRARY.

The standard of the State Library, so far as the law division is concerned, has been fully kept up, but the miscellaneous portion of the Library has necessarily been neglected.

I do think that, considering its facilities and commodious quarters and the splendid collection of works, historical and of a general character, together with the magazines and periodicals received weekly and monthly by the Library, some provision should be made by which the people of Annapolis and the educational institutions here, as well as our many transient visitors, should have an opportunity to avail themselves of the literature gathered in the State Library. This can be done by opening the reading room and placing a competent person in charge of the same.

With this end in view, I recommend that the Library Committee be authorized to take steps looking to the development of a plan that will give to the public the library facilities enjoyed by communities similarly situated; and that they be also empowered to take into consideration the question of the establishment of some effective means by which expert information can be collated for the use of the members of the Legislature during the sessions of the General Assembly, thus enabling them to keep track of effective legislation in other States and communities.

Such departments in other States are in charge of experts, whose duty it is to draft laws for members and committees, to index carefully all legislation in the various States of the Union, and to gather all possible information about proposed laws.

Such a department of legislative reference attached to our State Library would prove a great economy in legislative work.

Committees and members could have before them in compact shape the experience of every other State on any given subject. Fewer laws would be declared unconstitutional, and less litigation would result. Greater economy and efficiency would be assured in the administration of the laws.

The Librarian agrees with me in these suggestions, and emphasizes them in her report, which will be laid before you. I hope that you will give her recommendations careful consideration, especially that in reference to the binding of the laws. There has been, heretofore, an appropriation of $3,000 for this purpose. The Librarian states that the work can be done for $1,500, and she suggests that this be the maximum appropriation for the purpose. In this I concur.

MARYLAND STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION.

The work of the Maryland State Library Commission has proven helpful in furnishing good reading matter and stimu-

lating and instructive lectures to those communities in our State which have not the advantages and privileges enjoyed by the people of our towns and cities.

The Commission has practically doubled its usefulness in the past year, and has broadened the sphere of its activities wherever an opportunity has been presented.

STATE GEOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC SURVEY.

The Maryland Geological Survey has been actively engaged during the past two years. The work of the Survey covers a wide variety of subjects, including the preparation of topographic, geological and agricultural soil maps, as well as highway engineering, hydrographic surveying, and forestry investigations.

The topographic surveying, which will afford an accurate and detailed base map of the State for economic, industrial and military purposes, is now completed for three-quarters of the State.

The geological investigations which follow the topographic surveys have now been completed for about one-half of the State, a number of county reports having already been published, while others are in process of preparation. Two volumes on geological subjects have appeared during the past two years, one containing an exhaustive discussion of the Coal Measures of the State, accompanied by maps of distribution and chemical analyses of all the seams.

GOOD ROADS.

The last session of the General Assembly enacted most important legislation in furtherance of the good roads movement by the passage of a State Aid Highway law. This Act has only been in operation during the past season, and the people of the State must not be too hasty at this time in judging of the value of the law or of the worth of the work done under it—work which of its very nature requires the test of one or two winters to prove its value.

An excellent beginning has been made and 40.46 miles of road have been contracted for at a cost of $212,592.63, one-half of which is to be paid out of the State Treasury.

Good roads cost money but they are far less expensive to the public than bad roads. The roads which the State Geological Survey Commission is constructing cost no more than similar roads North and South, and will prove a permanent investment for the people of the State. It is far more economical in the long run to build highways that require but a small amount for maintenance than to construct cheap temporary structures that will constantly require repair, to say nothing of the comfort and pleasure to be derived from smooth, dry roads.

The people of all the counties ought to co-operate with the Commission in the construction of highways under this Act. The importance of good roads is quickly made apparent in the increased value of real estate and the improvement of all the conditions surrounding country life. There is nothing which the State can do which will be of more lasting value than the construction of a modern system of public highways.

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL.

As you are aware, the Board of Public Works, by a majority vote, after due advertisement for bids, sold the State's interest in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

The highest bid received was $155,000, made by Mr. F. S. Landstreet, representing the Western Maryland Railroad.

It is unnecessary to dwell upon the reasons which prompted the acceptance of this bid. Suffice it to say that this was an asset of the State which had not yielded any return for a quarter of a century.

Payment for the stock was made in the securities of the State, as required by law, which were canceled, thus reducing the State debt $155,000.

A condition made with the purchaser was that if the Canal bed was ever used for a railroad track or tracks, then the tax exemption enjoyed by the Canal Company would be forfeited. The purchaser, in pursuance of this agreement, induced the stockholders of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to pass resolutions in conformity therewith.

I call your attention to this agreement, a copy of which will be transmitted to you by the Board of Public Works, so that you may take such steps as you may deem advisable and necessary in the premises.

STATE PROPERTY.

Desiring to have a full and detailed record of all of the real estate and property owned by the State of Maryland, I requested the Board of Public Works to authorize me to employ an attorney to make examinations and to furnish abstracts of titles, together with full descriptions of the property.

This work was entrusted to Mr. Frank V. Rhodes of Baltimore, who reports that the State owns 27 pieces of property situated in various parts of the State. This property forms a valuable asset.

It was discovered, when searching the title of the Northwestern Hay Scales in Baltimore City that the City had not paid the State for the portion of said lot upon which it had built a fire engine house. The price agreed upon was $2,500. The attention of the City authorities was at once called to this over-sight and they were informed that the State was ready to give a deed to the City for the lot, upon the payment of the $2,500. Assurances have been received from the City that settlement will be made early in January. Thus the State gains $2,500 through these examinations.

The title to some of the property referred to above is vested in the Directors or Trustees of the institutions. I suggest that some action be taken looking to the transfer to, and vesting of these titles in, the State of Maryland.

This will guard against any possible complications or contingencies that may arise, should any of the properties so held ever be abandoned by the body holding the title thereto, or an attempt made to use the same for purposes other than those intended.

PRATT STREET WHARF PROPERTY.

The State also owned in Baltimore City, wharf property on Pratt Street. As the City needed this property for its Pratt Street improvements, and offered $15,000 for it, the Board of Public Works, considering it a good price, unanimously agreed to accept it, and, accordingly, the property was sold.

SURVEY OP STATE PROPERTIES.

Surveys of the properties owned by the State were commenced a year ago by the State Geological Survey both at Annapolis and at Springfield. The inauguration by the Survey of the highway work the past season temporarily delayed the progress of this work, but it has again been taken up and will now be vigorously pushed. Maps and plats will be prepared showing both the boundary lines and the topography of each property.

STATE TOBACCO WAREHOUSES, Nos. 1 and 2.

The State Tobacco Warehouses, Nos. 1 and 2, were destroyed by the great fire in Baltimore, February, 1904. Insurance upon this property to the amount of $44,000, has been paid into the Treasury. The Board of Public Works, after due consideration, agreed unanimously to sell this property to the city of Baltimore for $185,000. The purchase money has not been paid, owing to a disputed point in regard to the title of the property. When received, it will be placed to the credit of the Tobacco Fund, to be used for such purposes as the General Assembly may direct.

The tobacco growers and commission merchants are urging that this fund be used for the erection of a new

tobacco warehouse, upon the water front, claiming that the needs of the tobacco trade require a warehouse so located.

STATE AUDITOR.

During the past year the State Auditor has examined the accounts of all the public officials placed under his supervision by the Act creating his office.

The Auditor still urges that the recommendations made two years ago, which were embodied in the message of my predecessor, viz: that the various officers who are required by the Constitution to make annual reports keep complete books, setting forth clearly and explicitly the receipts for which they are required to account. In many counties the records are kept in private account books which are taken away by the officials at the expiration of their terms.

I concur in the views of the Auditor, whose report will be laid before you. He should be authorized to establish a system of account books to be accurately kept by these officials. They should be strong, well-bound record books, furnished by the State to each office, to be held as the property of the State, so that when officers retire, they can not take away with them all records relating to the fees and emoluments of their offices.

The expense of furnishing these books will be small compared with their value in securing to the State permanent and complete reports and an accurate system in an important part of the public work.

I agree with the Auditor that it is very important that some legislation be had requiring the recording, in the office of the Register of Wills, of the payment of the collateral inheritance tax upon real estate, so that the title to such real estate can be readily proven.

THE LAND OFFICE.

The Land Office was removed from the old Comptroller's building to its new quarters in the Court of Appeals build-

ing, where it has ample space for the proper care and arrangement of the valuable records and documents now deposited in that office. The wills, documents, testamentary proceedings and indexes of the Prerogative Court have been removed from the office of the Register of Wills of Anne Arundel County to the Land Office, as directed by Chapter 573 of the Acts of 1904.

The Commissioner's report contains interesting information, and full statements of all the receipts and disbursements of the office.

PUBLIC RECORDS COMMISSION.

I was authorized by an Act of the last General Assembly to appoint a Public Records Commission for the purpose of examining into the condition and completeness of the public records in the several counties and Baltimore city, and to report thereon to the General Assembly, with such recommendations as they may deem expedient for the better custody, arrangement and preservation of the same.

This work has been well done under the supervision of Mrs. Hester Dorsey Richardson, the President, who has given it special attention, spending many weeks in personal examination of the records on the Eastern Shore, for which she received no compensation. She has been assisted in the work by trained and competent men, chosen for their fitness as investigators.

There is included in the report a full history of the records which have been examined, showing their condition in detail.

The work of the Commission has been completed, except in the county of Prince George's and the examination of the records of some of the Courts in Baltimore city. These have been partially examined and tabulated.

The report shows that the work has been done none too soon, and that the restoration of the records must not be

delayed if these priceless documents are to be saved to the State.

The preservation and restoration of these public records should become the charge of the authorities of the counties having the custody of them, and I suggest that the members of the General Assembly look into the matter with a view to making provision through local laws for the preservation and restoration of the records where needed.

The Commission asks for a small additional appropriation to enable it to complete its work and to publish its report.

STATE GAME WARDEN.

During the past year the work of this office has been greatly increased. The violations of the game laws were more determined and more open than in any preceding period, which has been followed by a larger number of prosecutions for the violation of the laws.

For the proper and speedy execution of the work the Game Warden established in Baltimore city his main office, under the control of Mr. Oregon Milton Dennis, who without compensation consented to look after the details of the Game Warden's work in this section of the State. He has been painstaking and enthusiastic in what he has done, because he believes that game throughout the State is being destroyed, and that these preventive measures are necessary to save it.

FISH COMMISSIONERS.

The Fish Commissioners have done efficient work during the past two years. They are annually placing in the waters of the State millions of shad and perch, and in the trout and bass streams thousands of these game fish.

The importance of artificial propagation can be appreciated only when it is remembered that the natural spawning grounds of our fish have been cut off to a very large extent.

The construction of dams, the placing of pound nets in the bay, creeks and rivers, the diversion of the currents, and the pollution of the waters have driven the fish from their natural habitat, and but for the work done by artificial hatching, their numbers would be rapidly depleted.

The Commissioner for the Western Shore strongly recommends the sale of the Station located in Garrett County, because it has no water that can be used for hatching purposes, and its situation is so far from the railroad as to render it absolutely useless as a hatching station. It is only an expense to the people, and should be sold and the proceeds used to procure land and water rights at some convenient point having suitable railroad facilities to all parts of the State, where bass and trout ponds and hatcheries should be built, so that all of the work of the Commissioner can be concentrated at a central point.

I would recommend that these Commissioners be placed in charge of the enforcement of the Game Laws relating to fish in the waters of the State.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL.

The State Fire Marshal reports an increasing demand for the services of his department, and makes the gratifying statement that there was no appreciable increase in the number of fires during the past year. The work done by the Fire Marshal and his Assistant has been highly commended by the insurance people of Baltimore city.

The Marshal asks that the law defining his duties be so amended as to confer upon him the power, and to make it his duty, to examine any or all buildings in the State, outside of the city of Baltimore, used or intended to be used as hotels, lodging-houses, theatres or places of public assemblage, and to compel the erection thereon of proper fire-escapes.

I recommend that you give this matter careful consideration and grant the power asked, as its purpose is to guard against the loss of life.

STATE MINE INSPECTOR.

The State Mine Inspector reports that he has been carrying out the instructions given him by me at the time of his appointment,—"that he should administer the office in a business way, that he should inspect the mines, not in the interest of the mine owners or of the miners, but to deal impartially and fairly with both." This he assures me he has done. There have been no complaints and the general condition of the mines and miners is excellent.

The Inspector recommends some change in the law relating to the quality of oil used in the mines. He believes that the standard should be changed and that the quality to be used should be definitely fixed, and the use of an inferior grade prohibited.

CARE OF THE INDIGENT BLIND.

I transmit, herewith, in pursuance of Section 6 of Article 30 of the Code of Public General Laws, a statement of the cost of instruction of the indigent blind, with names, ages and terms of the State beneficiaries admitted to the Maryland Blind Asylum since January 13, 1904.

This statement shows that the sum which has been paid over to that institution for the two years ending October 1, 1905, amounts to $41,750.

GOVERNOR'S CONTINGENT FUND.

In accordance with the Constitutional requirement, I submit to you a statement of the expenditures from the Contingent Fund placed at the disposal of the Governor. These disbursements are supported by vouchers, which are at your disposal for examination.

CONCLUSION.

I have tried to give you as succinctly as possible an account of the condition of the affairs of the State, with my views thereon, in the hope that the data collated and my comments may aid you in your legislative work.

Your aim should be to make this Legislature notable for its prompt and intelligent conduct of public business, the maturing of wise measures and the practice of strict economy.

With such purposes Democrats and Republicans can stand together and work in harmony.

There will be no time, no place, for political differences and intrigues during this Session.

I am sure that you will all make records that will win you personal honor and the confidence of your constituents and credit for our splendid Commonwealth.

EDWIN WARFIELD.